(iii) Commission to STD-PCO franchisees in the rest of the country to be paid @16% upto a gross of Rs. 20,000.00 per month. @15% on gross turn over between Rs., 20,000.00 and Rs. 50,000.00 per month and @12% on the gross turnover beyond Rs. 50,000.00 per month.

(h) Group dialling facility extended upto 30 kms in Rural hilly and tribal areas of the country and 20 kms in other areas if one of the following three conditions is met:—

(i) The calling and called exchange are both in the same SDCA.

(ii) Even if the calling and the called exchange are not within the same SDCA, the corresponding SDCAs are within a distance of 30/20 kms from each other as the case may be.

(iii) Local areas of the calling and the called exchanges have a common boundary even if they fall in adjacent SDCAs.

2. The concessional rates will take effect from 1.1.1996. The financial impact of the package will be about Rs. 200 crores per year.

Meeting of Board of Directors of All India Handloom Marketing Society

1338. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Board of Directors of the All India Handloom Marketing Society consists of four Government Directors;

(b) whether these Directors are Attending the Board meetings regularly; and

(c) the number of Board meetings have been conducted during the last three years and expenditure incurred for these meetings?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) The Board of Directors of the All India Handloom Fabric Marketing Cooperative Society Ltd. consists of three Government Directors.

(b) and (c) During the last three years, seventeen Board meetings have been conducted, out of which ten meetings have attended by the Government Directors. The expenditure incurred on seventeen Board meetings is Rs. 21.67 lakhs.

Interest Earned by Hyderabad Telecom Phone Applications

1339. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount lying with Hyderabad Telecom which has been deposited with phone applications;

(b) whether interest is being earned from Banks on this amount;

(c) if so, the interest collected in 1995-96 from funds collected through receipt of phone applications; and

(d) the steps proposed to to pay interest on deposits made by the public?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) The amounts in question as on 31.10.96 are as under:

OYT	Rs. 7.05 lakhs
General	Rs. 1198.47 lakhs
	Rs. 1205.52 lakhs

(b) No, Sir. The amount is deposited in Reserve Bank of India and the Department earns no interest on this.

(c) Not applicable.

(d) Simple interest at the rate allowed by SBI is allowed to the prospective subscribers under prevailing rules and is adjusted in the (first) bills issued to them after opening of the Telephone connections. If the application is

withdrawn before the provision of a telephone, the amount of deposit is also paid back with interest.

अलमाट्टी बांध परियोजना हेतु सहायता

1340. **श्री महेश्वर सिंह:** क्या जल संसाधन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सरकार ने अलमाट्टी बांध परियोजना के लिए लगभग 200 करोड़ रुपए का अनुदान प्रदान करने का निर्णय लिया है, जो सरकार द्वारा आज तक किसी भी पन बिजली परियोजना के निर्माण हेतु दी गई सबसे अधिक एक मुश्त राशि है; और

(ख) सरकार द्वारा देश में उक्त परियोजना के अलावा, राज्यवार किन-किन पन-बिजली परियोजनाओं के निर्माण के लिए इस वर्ष अनुदान के रूप में कितनी-कितनी धनराशि प्रदान करने का निर्णय लिया गया है?

जल संसाधन मंत्री (श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र): (क) और (ख) जी नहीं। अपर कृष्णा परियोजना चरण I फेज-III अर्थात् इन्डी शाखा नहर विस्तार के 62 कि० मी० से 172 कि० मी० तक, 0 से 85 कि० मी० तक ज्यारेगो शाखा नहर और अलमट्टी बायीं तट नहर (लिफ्ट) के निर्माण के लिए चालू सिंचाई और बहुप्रयोजनों-परियोजनाओं को शीघ्र पूरा करने के लिए जल संसाधन मंत्रालय के वर्ष 1996-97 के बजट में 900 करोड़ का रुपए का प्रावधान करते हुए केन्द्रीय सरकार ने "त्वरित सिंचाई लाभ कार्यक्रम" के तहत केन्द्रीय ऋण सहायता के रूप में 114 करोड़ रुपए की राशि स्वीकृत की है। अलमट्टी बांध अपर कृष्णा परियोजना का घटक है।

अन्य बहुप्रयोजनों परियोजनाओं जैसे सरदार सरोवर 93 करोड़ रुपए, बाण सागर 31 करोड़ रुपए, इन्दिरा सागर 50 करोड़ रुपए, रणजीत सागर 90.00 करोड़ रुपए आदि के लिए भी केन्द्रीय ऋण सहायता स्वीकृत की गई है।

Pending Applications for Telephone Connections in Kolhapur, Maharashtra

1341. PROF. RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications for telephone connections pendings with Kolhapur of Maharashtra as on 30th September, 1996;

(b) the reasons for pendency; and

(c) by when the waiting list is expected to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) The number of applications for telephone connections pending with Kolhapur as on 30th September is 2104.

(b) Due to non availability of exchange capacity.

(c) The above waiting list is likely to be cleared by March 1997.

Americans Stand on Kashmir

1342. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reported assurance given by US-Administration to a visiting Pakistani delegation in September this year that US continue to treat Kashmir as a disputed territory, questioning the validity of the Instrument of accession; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) Government is aware of the visit of a Pakistani delegation to Washington from September 16—19, 1996 comprising Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, MNA and leader of the National Peoples' Party, Syed Iftikhar Gilani, MNA representing the opposition PML, and Shafkat Mehmood, Senate Member representing the PPP